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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. In the regime's constant effort to keep the cash in private hands down to a minimum to avoid inflation in the face of the scarcity of essential commodities, every occasion and stratagem was used to extract cash from the worker's purse. And at the same time, the regime attempted to convince the people that the general welfare of the people was improving with lower prices and a better quality and greater availability of goods.

2. Reductions in the prices of consumer goods were always accompanied by great fanfare and publicity, but the items whose costs were reduced were usually nonessential or unsalable. When an essential or desirable commodity was reduced in price, the reduction was minimal and was frequently followed by the following trick. Shortly after the price reduction of a particular commodity, the product disappeared from the market, then reappeared with a different brand name or packaging and was presented as a product of better quality. The price of the "new" item would be higher than the price of the originally reduced one.

these tricks were used many times and specifically remembered such items as bread, "cold-cut" meats, sausage (kielbasa - a Polish staple), textiles, and cigarettes. In the case of cigarettes, after the disappearance of certain brands that had been reduced in price, the State Tobacco Monopoly announced in newspapers that in "its solicitude" for the smoker it was producing a superior cigarette to meet the smokers' demands. The eventual price increase, like the increases in the prices of all commodities, would never be publicized, and "the public knew that it had been taken in again."

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3. Sometime in 1954, after the greatly publicized reduction of various prices (small reductions on essential items and larger reductions on 3rd and 4th category items), [redacted] a certain newspaper (possibly 50X1 Trybuna Robotnicza) in Stalinogrod, in its anxiety to show the public the improvement in living costs, compared an average monthly household budget expended before price reductions with that expended after reductions. [redacted] there were several laughable distortions of a household's list of monthly purchased commodities but remembered only one glowing misrepresentation which listed two kilograms of mustard, which was substantially reduced, but only one kilogram of sausage, which was slightly reduced. Using such tricks, the newspaper presented a favorable comparison, but the mustard item was a joke for weeks [redacted]
4. [redacted] 50X1  
[redacted] strictly confidential or secret circulars were received from the Ministry of Internal Trade which directed the food shop to increase the price of a particular item after the close of business on a particular day. No reasons were given for these increases, and the following day sales people would shrug their shoulders to querying clients and simply say, "Orders from above." 50X1
5. Another trick that [redacted] was used in the sale of cream and the better grades of cold-cuts. Each of these items was always bought in a dairy products shop and cold-cuts shop (wedliniarnia) respectively. After price reductions on these two items, the sale of these products was transferred to a delicatessen shop where they were sold at a higher price. The delicatessen shop was a shop where various relatively high quality items were sold at high prices.
6. The regime made further attempts to extract cash from private hands by letting out deliberate rumors that there would be a monetary reform on a certain day. People, in preference to taking a loss as they had in the past, would rush to stores and buy up any available merchandise, usually unsalable surpluses. This form of purchase was popularly known as "shop robbing" (rabunki sklepu). 50X1
7. [redacted] if reductions in the prices of commodities were to become genuine and sufficient enough to raise the purchasing power of an individual family, the regime would strike at the salaries of workers, particularly by raising the production norms.

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